

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 01544 231320Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SS-15
NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 H-01 /062 W
-----052378 231331Z /42

O 231145Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8976

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CT, US

SUBJ: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST

FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SITREP AS OF 1100Z JUL 23:

1. REPORT FROM CAE EMBASSY PARIS THAT GOLDSMITH WAS RELEASED (PARIS 21409) IS, AS PARIS SUSPECTED, ERRONEOUS. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH HOTELS, HOSPITALS AND AIRLINES WITHOUT SUCCESS. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE WAS NOT AVAILABLE LAST NIGHT, WHEN WE FIRST HEARD FROM AP PARIS OF ALLEGED RELEASE, OR THIS MORNING. OTHERS IN HIS OFFICE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY RELEASE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND BRITISH EMBASSY YAOUNDE HAS CHARTERED AIRCRAFT READY TO DEPART ONCE CLEARANCE IS OBTAINED. CHARGE HAS SENT LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER MAKING POINTS PARA 1 BANGUI 1527 AND ADDING THAT, AS INTERMEDIARY, WE ARE TRANSMITTING REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE TO BRING BRITISH CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE TO BANGUI. WE FOLLOWED CUSTOMARY PRACTICE AND TOOK COPY OF LETTER TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHICH NORMALLY CALLS US BACK WITHIN A FEW HOURS WITH RESPONSE ON CLEARANCE REQUEST.

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PAGE 02 BANGUI 01544 231320Z

3. WE HAVE BRIEFED THE TWO BRITISH DAILY MAIL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE GOLDSMITH/RANDAL CASE. ACCORDING TO THEM, APPROVAL FOR THEIR VISIT CAME DIRECTLY FROM MINISTER FRANCK JULY 19, I.E. IN THE MIDDLE OF GOLDSMITH/RANDAL AFFAIR. MINISTER OF INFORMATION YONGONGO HAS CONTACTED THE DAILY MAIL MEN, SAYS HE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THEIR VISIT, ASSURES THEM HE WILL HELP THEM REGISTER

WITH THE POLICE, AND PROMISES TO PERSONALLY TAKE THEM DOWN TO BERENGO FOR THEIR INTERVIEW WITH THE EMPEROR. THEY ARE SITTING TIGHT WAITING FOR YONGONGO.

4. BY CHANCE CHARGE WAS ABLE TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN HE VISITED MINISTRY TO DELIVER LETTER DESCRIBED PARA 2 ABOVE. HE EXPLAINED WE UNDERSTOOD GOLDSMITH WAS IN FACT BRITISH CITIZEN AND THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT WISHED TO SEND CONSUL BY SPECIAL FLIGHT FROM YAOUNDE, FOR WHICH OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING PERMISSION WAS REQUIRED. CHARGE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT US COULD NOT REPRESENT GOLDSMITH, BUT IT WAS OFFERING TO ACT AS INTER-MEDIARY BECAUSE GOLDSMITH WORKED FOR AMERICAN COMPANY AND HAD AMERICAN WIFE. HE INQUIRED ABOUT GOLDSMITH'S HEALTH, NOTING THAT HE WAS 56, HAD HAD SOME HEART TROUBLE AND CARRIED MEDICINE IN HIS SUITCASE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN REPLY REITERATED THAT JOURNALISTS MUST FOLLOW REGULATIONS WHEN THEY VISIT THE CAE. HE NOTED OUR REQUEST FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE. HE SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE US ANY INFORMATION ABOUT GOLDSMITH'S CONDITION.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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